

## Station Host Program

Passengers at four Northern California Amtrak Stations can now obtain answers to many of their questions about services at the station and nearby without standing in line and taking the time of the busy Amtrak station staff.

A growing number of Volunteer Station Hosts are on the job to warmly greet and assist passengers each day at the Emeryville, Oakland, Martinez and Sacramento stations. Hosts can be identified by their name badge and official Station Host cap.

Want to catch a local bus connection or find a nearby Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station? Need cash from an ATM machine? Find a nearby hotel or restaurant? Or, where to board the train? Some 35 volunteers, under the auspices of the California State Host Association, are on duty at these four stations to welcome passengers and answer such questions. They will gladly obtain timetables, promotional brochures and informational pieces for passengers from the station's racks of printed material and they can alert the staff if help is needed in boarding a train.

Passengers with questions regarding ticketing, reservations and train scheduling are referred to Amtrak Station Agents.



*Station volunteer JC Collins assists passenger Steve Binninger*

If you, too, would like to help passengers, and especially first-time train riders, pick up a Volunteer Station Host application at any of the four stations, fill it out, and mail it to one of the listed officers. Your interest will be welcomed.

## California Trains Attract Record Numbers of Passengers

Amtrak California ridership has posted record-breaking gains in the first four months of the federal fiscal year on Pacific Surfliner and San Joaquin trains as more travelers are attracted to the comfort and convenience of riding the train to their destination. Amtrak California has enjoyed these passenger increases during a period when other modes of leisure travel are experiencing major erosion in their markets.

Since October 2002, Pacific Surfliner trains have carried 615,532 passengers to destinations from San Luis Obispo to San Diego. Ridership for January 2003 was 26.3% higher than during the previous period in 2002. Ridership in the last quarter of 2002 posted record numbers each month on the popular Pacific Surfliner route.

Amtrak San Joaquins have carried 231,014 valley travelers from the San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento through the San Joaquin Valley to Bakersfield since October 2002. Each month passenger counts set new records as well as posting impressive gains when compared to the previous year's ridership figures. January ridership increased 6.3% over the previous January's total.



 **Amtrak California**  
A partnership of Caltrans and Amtrak

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## 50% Discount on Amtrak California

Passengers on San Joaquin and Pacific Surfliner trains will receive a 50% discount off the best available full fare during February and March.

Tickets may be purchased at the discount between February 16 and March 28 for travel February 18 to March 30, 2003. Reservations must be made at least two days prior to travel and once travel has begun, no changes to the itinerary are permitted. Up to two children ages 2-15 may accompany each adult at half the regular (full) fare. Other restrictions may apply.

Amtrak California's 50% discount promotion is to be advertised in newspapers and on the radio, including Hispanic radio, the Amtrak website ([www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)), AOL, weather.com and by e-mail to customers.

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### Sonora Connection

Now residents of Sonora and Oakdale have easy access to Amtrak California's San Joaquin trains.

The bus stop in Sonora is at Days Inn, 160 South Washington Street. In Oakdale, the bus stops at Golden Sunset Sierra Dinner Train Station, 220 South Sierra Avenue.

A morning Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach departs Sonora daily at 8:00 a.m. and Oakdale at 8:50 a.m. and arrives in Modesto at 9:15 a.m. Passengers connect with a San Joaquin train to Sacramento, stopping in Stockton and Lodi, and to a southbound train that travels through the Central Valley to Bakersfield.

In Sacramento there are Motorcoach connections to various Northern California destinations. And, at Bakersfield, passengers may board Motorcoaches for Los Angeles Union Station and other Southern California destinations. From LA Union Station, Pacific Surfliner trains take travelers to destinations in Orange and San Diego Counties.

An evening Motorcoach departs Sonora at 7:05 p.m. and Oakdale at 7:55 p.m. for Modesto and a northbound San Joaquin train to Stockton, Lodi and Sacramento.

For the return trip, an early morning San Joaquin train from both Bakersfield and Sacramento has

passengers in Modesto for a 9:00 a.m. departure for Oakdale and Sonora. Evening trains arrive in Modesto for a 6:50 p.m. Motorcoach departure for Oakdale and Sonora.

Amtrak Motorcoaches are painted in Amtrak colors and equipped with wheelchair lift. Passengers should purchase their bus and train tickets in advance at local travel agents, Amtrak stations, 1-800-USA-RAIL or at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

Sonora and Oakdale passengers without prepaid Amtrak tickets may buy a Greyhound ticket to Modesto and then purchase an Amtrak ticket to their destination at the Modesto Amtrak Station.



**State of California**  
Gray Davis, Governor

**Business, Transportation & Housing Agency**  
Maria Contreras-Sweet, Secretary

**Department of Transportation**  
Jeff Morales, Director

## making tracks

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New Amtrak  
Maintenance Facility

Construction of a new Amtrak state-of-the-art maintenance facility in Oakland is underway. The \$65 million facility, which will replace the current 1916-era facility, will provide superior working conditions and enable employees to better maintain, repair, service and inspect trains, improving efficiency and allowing for the continued growth of passenger rail service in California.

The investment in the new facility represents another example of the partnership between Amtrak and the State of California to improve passenger rail services. Amtrak has committed \$27 million toward the project, while the State of California will invest \$38 million.

“Investments like this symbolize Amtrak’s commitment to the future of passenger rail in the State of California,” said David L. Gunn, Amtrak’s President and CEO.

“The state invested funds in the new Amtrak Oakland maintenance facility to protect the states’ investment in train equipment and build upon the success of passenger rail service in California,” said Warren Weber, Chief of the California Department of Transportation Rail Division.

The new 22-acre facility will include a main shop and a service and inspection area. It will be equipped for service, maintenance, inspection and repair, and train washing.

The new maintenance facility will have a positive economic impact on Oakland by adding approximately 200 new jobs.

“Happiest Train on Earth”

Walt Disney’s backyard railroad, known as the “Happiest Train on Earth,” is now on display – through March 31, 2003 – at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.

The exhibit’s highlight is a 1/8th scale model train, headed by the live steam engine Lilly Belle, which ran on Disney’s backyard railroad. The engine was designed after locomotives operated by Central Pacific (later Southern Pacific) Railroad and built in its Sacramento Shop in the 1870s. The exhibit also includes vintage photographs, artifacts and video interviews.

Disney’s passion for railroading followed him through his life and much of his recreational time was spent with his hand on the throttle of a steam locomotive. It is said that his longtime fascination with miniatures and mechanical animation inspired his “Magic Kingdom.”

The California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is located in Old Sacramento, a short walk from the Sacramento Amtrak Station. For further information, call 916/445-6645.

Rail 2 Rail

Under the new Rail 2 Rail program, Amtrak and Metrolink jointly honor certain train ticket types to allow Southern California passengers more train travel options.

Metrolink monthly pass holders may ride any Pacific Surfliner train or Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach within the trip limits of their Orange and Ventura County Line monthly pass for no additional charge. Similarly, Pacific Surfliner ticket holders may ride Metrolink trains within the limit of their ticket at no additional charge.

Southwest Airlines passengers may ride either Metrolink or Pacific Surfliner trains free between Burbank Airport and Los Angeles Union Station. Southwest is promoting the train service and its convenience to the Burbank Airport to its customers.

“Rail 2 Rail is about convenience. It’s about giving passengers the option to choose the train that works best with their schedule,” said Jeff Morales, Caltrans Director. “Metrolink, Amtrak and Caltrans are working together to coordinate schedules, fares and ticketing to make the train experience even more convenient, economical and enjoyable.”



Visit the Golden State Museum

On your next trip to Sacramento aboard Amtrak California’s San Joaquin, allow time to visit the new Golden State Museum.

The Museum draws upon the vast collection of California State Archives to tell the state’s story through innovative and interactive technology, multimedia productions, authentic artifacts and documents and computer-generated imagery.

There are four distinctive galleries:

- The Place highlights the beauty and diversity of California landscapes and makes the connection between land and people.
- In The People gallery, visitors board a vintage bus to sit and meet distinctive migrant Californians ranging back to the Gold Rush days.
- The Politics gallery highlights California statehood. On interactive computers visitors can write laws or sit in a booth in a replica of Posey’s Café to listen to legislators at work.
- The Promise gallery illustrates California achievements and entrepreneurial spirit, showing the state is a place where hard work creates golden opportunities.

The Constitution Wall spans six floors over a courtyard and show-

cases 36 words from the California Constitution.

Golden State Museum is located at 1020 O Street (corner of 10th and O Streets), one block from the Capitol and a short walk or bus ride from the Amtrak Station. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. For full information, including admission and group tours, call 916/653-7524.



All power for the People exhibit

A Second Stop in Healdsburg

There is now a second stop – in a convenient downtown location – for Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches, which provide direct connections between Healdsburg and Amtrak California’s San Joaquin trains.

The new stop is at the Singletree Inn Restaurant, 165 Healdsburg Avenue.

Two daily Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches take Healdsburg passengers to Martinez to connect with southbound San Joaquin trains. And, two daily Thruway Motorcoaches take passengers from trains in Martinez to Healdsburg.

Southbound, the motorcoaches depart from the Singletree Inn Restaurant at 11:20 a.m. and 3:45

p.m., and five minutes later from the Park & Ride Lot, Healdsburg Ave. & Grant Avenue at 11:25 a.m. and 3:50 p.m. The motorcoaches arrive in Martinez to connect with San Joaquin trains.

Returning Motorcoaches are back in Healdsburg at 11:55 a.m. and 5:20 p.m. (Park & Ride Lot) and at the Singletree Inn Restaurant at 11:59 a.m. and 5:25 p.m.

From Martinez, San Joaquin trains stop in Antioch, Stockton, Modesto, Turlock/Denair, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Hanford, Corcoran, Wasco and Bakersfield. At Bakersfield, Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches take passengers to Los Angeles Union Station and other Southern California destinations via southbound Pacific Surfliner trains for

Orange County and San Diego.

Northbound San Joaquin trains follow the same route, and Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches take passengers to Healdsburg from the train stop in Martinez.

Amtrak bus connections are full-sized intercity motorcoaches marked Amtrak Thruway. Passengers taking the Amtrak Motorcoach must hold an Amtrak ticket.

Reservations on San Joaquin trains are required. Passengers may make reservations and purchase a ticket for the train and Thruway Motorcoach from a local travel agent, by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL, or by visiting the Amtrak website at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).